autonomous body in Feb. 1999. The estimated cost of the project in the 9th Plan period is Rs. 25.13 crores and the Centre is likely to continue in the next plan period.

(c) At present, the Centre is operating from the campus of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad and minimal technical and administrative support is drawn from NRSA. Action is being taken to set up infrastructure and recruit manpower for the centre. From October, 2000, INCOIS provides information on potential fishery Zone in the form of Charts and Text, every Tuesday and Friday to the Marine Fishing Community. This information is made available by FAX to 115 designated Government and non-Government organisations in the Maritime States and Islands who is turn pass it to the Fishing Community. The feed back received from the fishermen has indicated that the catch in the potential fishing zone areas is about twice higher.

Task Force for investment flow in the Railways

321. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to plan flow of investment from non-traditional sources of revenue, a Task Force was set up;

(b) if so, the details of their recommendations;

(c) whether Empowered Committees were formed to expedite issue of guidelines; and

(d) the details of the guidelines issued to Zonal Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In order to plan flow of investment from non-traditional sources of revenue, a Task Force comprising senior Railway Officers and representatives from FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM was set up to undertake an in-depth study of various issues. The Task Force has recommended generating revenues from non-traditional sources like commercial utilization of land and air space, Own Your Wagon

Scheme, BOLT (Build-Own-Lease-Transfer) Scheme, commercial publicity and other innovative financing packages including joint ventures and formation of SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicles) with private organisations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir and the following actions have been taken;

(i) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to all the Zonal Railways for improving earnings from Commercial Publicity. The guidelines cover station premises, trains, level crossing, approaches to the major stations etc. In each area of activity, the action to be taken by the Zonal Railways have been spelt out.

(ii) The detailed methodology for commercial use of railway land/ air space has been issued to all Zonal Railways and the railways have been asked to take up the sites identified.

(iii) A new corporation has been set up to:

—commercially exploit the Right of Way of the Railways along railway track for laying of optical fiber cable.

(iv) Introduction of "Own Your Wagon" scheme. Its success, however, depends upon various factors like wagon availability in general, state of economy, demand for transport, cost of capital etc. In order to bring the financing of the scheme in line with the prevailing money market conditions, the payment of lease charges has been linked to prime lending rate, depreciation benefit and corporate tax instead of a fixed rate for the entire contract period.